IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Method to produce an austenitic alloy, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an austenitic substrate alloy of low Al content is coated with at least one layer of an alloy of higher Al content at a temperature between 100°C and 600°C, so that the resulting product has an Al content of [[4,5]] 4.5-12 % by weight~~, preferably [[5,5]] 5.5-12 % by weight~~.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Method to produce an austenitic alloy according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a substrate alloy having the following composition (in % by weight):

20-70 % of Ni,

15-27 % of Cr,

0-5 % of Al,

0-4 % of Mo and/or W,

0-2 % of Si,

0-3 % of Mn,

0-2 % of Nb,

0-[[0,5]] 0.5 % of Ti,

0-[[0,1]] 0.1 % of one or more rare earth metals (REM)

balance Fe and normally occurring impurities is coated with at least one layer of a composition of higher Al content.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Method for the manufacture of an austenitic alloy according to ~~any one of claims 1-2~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein at least one layer is aluminium.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Method for the manufacture of an austenitic alloy according to ~~any one of claims 1-2~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein at least one layer is an aluminium-based alloy.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Method for the manufacture of an austenitic alloy according to ~~any one of claim 4~~ claim 1, in which the aluminium-based alloy is Al having [[0,5]] 0.5 to 25 % by weight of Si.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Method for the manufacture of an austenitic alloy according to ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1, wherein the austenitic final product has the following composition (in % by weight):

0-[[0,2]] 0.2 % of C,

0-[[0,1]] 0.1 % of N,

25-70 % of Ni,

15-25 % of Cr,

[[4,5]] 4.5-12 % of Al,

0-4 % of Mo and/or W,

0-4 % of Si,

0-3 % of Mn,

0-2 % of Nb,

0-[[0,5]] 0.5 % of Ti,

0-[[0,5]] 0.5 % of Y, Sc, Zr and/or Hf,

0-[[0,2]] 0.2 % of one or more rare earth metals (REM) such as, e.g., Ce, La, Sm,

balance Fe and normally occurring impurities.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Austenitic alloy with an Al content of [[4,5]] 4.5-12 % by weight, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is manufacturable by the method according to ~~any one of claims 1-6~~ claim 1.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): Use of the method according to ~~any of claims 1-6~~ claim 1 for producing material to be used in high temperature applications such as supporting material in catalytic converters and resistive heating.